

**Abstract**

The present invention relates to a method for the selective oxidation of a carbohydrate in the presence of a gold catalyst which includes nanodispersed gold particles on a metal oxide support, to a method for the selective oxidation of an oligosaccharide in the presence of a gold catalyst which comprises nanodispersed gold particles on a carbon or metal oxide support, and to the aldonic acid oxidation products prepared by use of these methods.